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U.S. Department of the Interior • U.S. Geological Survey

# MINERAL INDUSTRY SURVEYS

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## MARKETABLE PHOSPHATE ROCK IN DECEMBER 1997

U.S. marketable phosphate rock production in December 1997 decreased about 10% compared to the prior month, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Production for the year was 45.1 million metric tons, which was slightly lower than the total production in 1996 of 45.4 million tons.

Domestic phosphate rock sold or used, excluding exports for December, increased 3% compared to the prior month, to about 3.5 million tons. Total sales or use for the year was 41.6 million tons, which was 4% lower than the total for 1996.

U.S. producer ending stocks for December were 5% lower than the figure shown in November. In the Florida-North

Carolina region, stocks were almost 8% lower, while in the Idaho-Utah region, stocks were 8% higher than the previous month.

Some phosphate rock import data for Morocco are suppressed by the Bureau of the Census; total U.S. import tonnage was estimated by USGS to average 150,000 tons per month, or 1.8 million tons per year. December import data were not available at the time of publication.

Apparent domestic consumption for 1997, calculated from the sum of home deliveries and adjusted import data, was 43.4 million tons, compared with 43.7 million tons in 1996.

TABLE 1  
UNITED STATES PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS, BY REGION 1/

(Thousand metric tons)

Region and period	Marketable production	Sold and/or used	Ending stocks 2/
<b>United States:</b>			
1996:			
December	3,620	3,450	6,390 r/
Total r/	45,400	43,500	XX
1997:			
January	3,820	3,320	6,750
February	3,600	3,150	7,170
March	3,910	3,560	7,570
April	3,970	3,410	7,920
May	4,110	3,790	7,970
June	3,830	3,500	8,130
July	3,690	3,330	8,270
August	3,900	3,510	8,490
September	3,810	3,600	8,560
October	3,670	3,570	8,450
November	3,540	3,340	8,320
December	3,200	3,450	7,940
Total	45,100	41,600	XX
<b>Florida and North Carolina:</b>			
1996:			
December	3,290	3,080	4,690
Total r/	39,200	38,100	XX
1997:			
January	3,440	2,930	5,080
February	3,170	2,820	5,390
March	3,460	3,160	5,730
April	3,460	2,960	6,180
May	3,460	3,230	6,370
June	3,130	3,040	6,520
July	2,950	2,820	6,680
August	3,150	2,920	6,920
September	2,950	3,040	6,860
October	2,900	3,130	6,610
November	2,830	2,960	6,430
December	2,680	3,090	5,890
Total	37,600	36,200	XX
<b>Idaho and Utah:</b>			
1996:			
December	334	376	1,690
Total r/	6,200	5,500	XX
1997:			
January	376	392	1,670
February	433	326	1,780
March	455	395	1,840
April	515	447	1,740
May	650	561	1,600
June	698	463	1,610
July	735	518	1,590
August	750	589	1,570
September	859	558	1,700
October	771	436	1,840
November	705	379	1,890
December	520	358	2,050
Total	7,470	5,420	XX

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes inventory adjustments.

TABLE 2  
U.S. IMPORTS OF PHOSPHATE ROCK 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Period	Imports	
	Quantity	Value
1996:		
Jan.- Nov.	502	29,100
December	67	3,850
Total 3/	1,800	104,000
1997: 4/		
January	101	4,310
February	(5/)	23
March	67	3,800
April	58	3,150
May	60	3,240
June	68	4,160
July	62	3,790
August	62	3,800
September	67	4,090
October	112	3,360
November	163	6,190
Year to date	820	40,000

1/ C.i.f. (cost, insurance, and freight) values at U.S. ports.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Includes estimate for data suppressed by Bureau of the Census.

4/ Data for the current month were not available at time of publication.

5/ Less than 1/2 unit.

Source: Bureau of the Census; data on the majority of phosphate rock imports from Morocco were suppressed by Census.

TABLE 3  
COMPARATIVE PHOSPHATE ROCK STATISTICS

(Million metric tons per year and dollars per metric ton for period shown)

	1994	1995	1996	1997
United States:				
Marketable production:				
Florida and North Carolina	34.0	38.0	39.2	37.6
Idaho and Utah	7.1	5.5	6.2	7.5
Total 1/	41.1	43.5	45.4	45.1
Sold or used by producers: 2/				
Florida and North Carolina	38.0	38.1	38.1	36.2
Idaho and Utah	5.9	5.6	5.5	5.4
Total 1/	43.9	43.7	43.5	41.6
Yearend stocks	6.0	5.7	6.4	7.9
Exports	2.8	2.9	W	W
Average value per ton	\$25.60	\$29.35	\$35.82	\$33.08
Imports for consumption	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/	1.8 e/
Average value per ton	\$48.76	\$51.01	57.91	NA
Apparent consumption 3/	42.9 e/	42.6 e/	43.7 e/	43.4 e/

e/ Estimated. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

2/ Includes exports reported by producers.

3/ Calculated as domestic sold or used plus imports, where imports are estimated to average about 150,000 tons per month (and though the average monthly estimate may appreciably exceed any one month's reported imports).

TABLE 4  
MOROCCAN  
PHOSPHATE ROCK EXPORTS 1/  
January - December 1997

(Thousand metric tons)

Country of destination	Quantity
Australia	172
Austria	117
Belgium	520
Brazil	191
Bulgaria	257
France	881
Germany	148
Greece	187
India	505
Indonesia	133
Iran	270
Ireland	7
Italy	96
Japan	263
Korea, Republic of	249
Mexico	1,850
Netherlands	26
New Zealand	383
Norway	9
Pakistan	104
Peru	54
Poland	789
Portugal	27
Romania	197
Spain	1,810
Sweden	67
Taiwan	54
Turkey	85
United Kingdom	12
United States	1,830
Venezuela	98
(Former) Yugoslavia	275
Total	11,700

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to total shown.

Source: Office Cherifien des Phosphates -  
Casablanca, Morocco